



International Seed Testing Association

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Document OGM18-02

Minutes of the Ordinary General Meeting 2017

Section 8.0 was edited as agreed in the OGM June 2018

This document contains the draft Minutes of the Ordinary General Meeting 2017, published on the ISTA web site within two months following the Ordinary General Meeting as defined in the ISTA Articles.

If there are no comments requiring amendment to the minutes within the subsequent two month period, the minutes will be considered approved. If there are comments and the comments are accepted by the Executive Committee, then the minutes including the comments will be considered approved and published on the ISTA web site.

Any comments about these minutes will be considered at the Ordinary General Meeting 2018, to be held in Sapporo, Japan.

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The Ordinary General Meeting of the Association

1. Call to Order

The President of ISTA, called the Meeting to order.

2. President's Address

To the invited organisations ISF, represented by Mr. Dennis Johnson, OECD represented by Mr Eddie Goldschagg, ABRATES represented by Francisco Krzyzanowski and APSA represented by Ms. Tudsanee Srisopha representatives of the ISTA Designated Authorities, ISTA members I extend a warm welcome to the 2017 Ordinary General Meeting of the International Seed Testing Association.

Today is the last day of the official programme of the 2017 ISTA Annual Meeting. Before beginning my opening address I would firstly like to extend a special welcome to the new ISTA Secretary General, Dr Andreas Wais, to his first Ordinary General Meeting. Welcome Andreas.

This has been an historic meeting in that it is the first held jointly with the American Association of Official Seed Analysts and the Society of Commercial Seed Technologists. The Annual Meeting has been preceded by workshops on Applications of Statistics in Seed Sampling, Native Seed Testing, Flower Seed Testing and Tolerances in Seed Testing / Referee Study Design and Implementation, all held in Denver. All four workshops were well attended and very much appreciated by those who participated.

The total number of people who attended the Annual Meeting is 284 from 35 countries and distinct economies. This is a very high attendance compared with recent Annual Meetings. This of course reflects that this is a joint meeting with AOSA and SCST. Nonetheless these high numbers are very pleasing and reflect the strong interest in the work of the three organisations participating.

The Honorary ISTA Life President, Attilio Lovato, sends his regrets at being unable to join us here in Denver and extends his best wishes for a successful and productive meeting.

The order of business will appear on the screen as it appears in OGM17-01 "Agenda for the Ordinary Meeting 2017.

Under Agenda point 6. Report of the Secretary General a motion to amend will be voted on. This is to amend the draft ISTA budget on page 42 in OGM17-03 Activity Report of the ISTA Committees 2016 9. Finances of the Association. This is because a revised budget is now being presented to the membership for approval. More details of the revisions will be given under agenda point 6.

Under Agenda point 13, Any other business raised by consent of the Executive Committee a presentation will be made on the ISTA Sampling Template. The relevant documents are OGM 17-08 The ISTA Seed Sampling Template. This agenda point is in response to the motion passed at the 2016 Ordinary General Meeting in Tallinn "that the proposal to implement the experiment on the International Seed Sampling Certificate be withdrawn, and the new proposal will be submitted for consideration, at the 2017 ISTA Ordinary General Meeting."

The Article change proposal under Agenda Point 8. Consideration and Adoption of the changes to the ISTA articles recognises that members may include entities

undertaking sampling only. An entity undertaking sampling only does not fit the definition of a member laboratory.

As required under the Articles of the Association, the relevant documents were posted in April 2017, two months prior to the ISTA Ordinary General Meeting, to the ISTA Designated Authorities, ISTA Members and other stakeholders. Two further documents were posted in June OGM17-09 Protocol for the approval of the Automatic Seed Samplers as an information document and OGM17-06B Proposed Changes to the ISTA Rules for voting on in 2017 in response to feedback from ISTA members to document OGM17-06 Proposed Changes to the ISTA International Rules for Seed Testing 2018.

As in previous years text being voted on will appear on the screen. Voting will be by the Power Vote keypads. I would like to remind you that the meeting today will be recorded. This is to give a record for the minutes.

Before we continue with the Ordinary General Meeting, as you will be aware Mrs Patricia Muschick, Head of the Administration Department at the ISTA Secretariat passed away in April after a long illness.

Patricia joined the ISTA Secretariat in January 1996 as one of two staff members. In the following 20 years the Secretariat, with the Association, grew considerably. Patricia was a key contributor to this growth. It is at the ISTA Congresses and Annual Meetings where those of you who met Patricia will have most likely done so. The success of the Congresses and Annual Meetings was in large part due to Patricia. Patricia ensured that the meeting ran smoothly, that the needs of the members from the Secretariat during the meeting were always met and any questions from them were answered. We will all have different memories of ways in which Patricia helped us both during the Congresses and Annual meetings and from the Secretariat in general.

I ask for a moment of silence in remembrance of Patricia.

Thank you. I now ask The Secretary General to call the roll of designated members entitled to vote.

Agenda of the Ordinary General Meeting of the Association was displayed on the screen as shown above

3. Roll Call of Designated Members entitled to vote

Argentina	Ignacio Aranciaga
Brazil	Hose Maurisio Pereira
Canada	Steve Jones
Denmark	Ulla Morgensen
Egypt	Marwa Hassan
Finland	Leena Pietilä
France	Joël Léchappé
Germany	Günter Müller
India	Keshavulu Kunusoth
Ireland	John Joe Byrne
Italy	Rita Zecchinelli
Japan	Masatoshi Sato

Latvia	Velta Evelone
Netherlands	Marcel Toonen
New Zealand	Craig R. McGill
Norway	Eivin Meen
Philippines	Ruel C. Gesmundo
Poland	Irena Gera
Republic of Korea	Seung In Yi
Russian Federation	Alexander M. Malko
S.C.T. of Taiwan, Penghu, Kinmen and Matsu	Wen-Chuan Chung
South Africa	Pamela Strauss
Sweden	Pernilla Andersson
Thailand	Tudsanee Srisopha
Turkey	Mehmet Sahin
United Kingdom	Valerie Cockerell
United States of America	Ernest Allen
Zambia	Mable M. Simwanza
Zimbabwe	Claid Mujaju

For Agenda items 4 to 7. The following is a precis of the presentations made due to the failure to record the minutes during this part of the meeting.

4. Comments received on the Minutes of the previous Ordinary Meeting

No comments were received on the minutes of the 2016 Ordinary General Meeting. As defined in the ISTA Articles the minutes of the 2016 Ordinary General Meeting are approved.

5. Report of the Executive Committee

ISTA President, Craig Mc Gill (New Zealand):

I would now like to present the report of the Executive Committee for 2016. The full report is available on the ISTA website in the document OGM17-03 Activity report of the ISTA Committees 2016. This report has been prepared with input from all members of the Executive Committee.

I will cover the framework for the report, the Executive Committee activities from June 2016 to May 2017 which includes meetings held by the Executive Committee in June 2016 and February 2017 and the activities of the Executive Committee working groups.

The Executive Committee elected for the 2016-2019 Triennium has members from Africa, Asia, Europe, North and South America and Oceania and thus represents a wide geographic distribution, reflecting the ISTA membership. At the Congress in Tallinn the ISTA Strategy for 2016-2019 was approved by the membership. This sets the framework for the activity of the Executive Committee and hence this report. The ISTA strategy is available from the ISTA website.

During the reporting period the Executive Committee has continued to work on two projects from the 2013-2016 Triennium. The European Union recognition of ISTA Accreditation and the ISTA Sampling Certificate. The latter is in response to concerns raised by the membership on the proposal to have a sampling certificate. The outcome of the work on the sampling certificate will be covered later in this presentation.

In the period of June 2016 to May 2017 the 2016-2019 Executive Committee met twice. The first meeting was in June 2016 immediately after the Congress in Tallinn. The primary purpose of this meeting was to discuss any early feedback on the

Congress and to establish the Executive Committee working groups. This included the establishment of a working group the will focus on the Technical Committees. This group will be chaired by Valerie Cockerell. The working groups develop policy for discussion and approval by the Executive Committee.

The Executive Committee also met with the Secretariat staff, during which the Secretariat staff each gave an overview of their role in the Secretariat. This was helpful to the Executive Committee Members, in particular, those joining the Executive for the first time, and reflects the important role the Secretariat plays as the central administrative structure within the Association.

The Executive Committee also meet at the ISTA Secretariat in February 2017. A key task of this meeting was to finalise recruitment of a new Secretary General. In addition to undertaking regulatory work, such as the approval of standard documents for distribution to the membership prior to the Ordinary Meeting, the meeting also discussed long range planning for the Association, The recognition of the ISTA Accreditation by the EU, the proposal for the ISTA sampling template which will be voted on later today and strengthening the relationship with the ISTA Designated Authorities were also worked. As a result of the latter a working group on the ISTA Designated Authorities has been established within the Executive Committee. This working group will be chaired by Joël Léchappé.

With the aim of strengthening relationships with other seed sector organisations a meeting was held with the International Seed Federation prior to the Executive Committee Meeting. A meeting of the Vegetable Seed Industry Working Group, chaired by Berta Killermann, was held after the Executive Committee Meeting. During the Executive Committee meeting the Executive Committee met with the Chairs of the ISTA Technical Committees. More details on some of the above will be given during the reports on the work of the Executive Committee working groups. The working group I would like to report on is the Accreditation Working Group. This working group is chaired by Rita Zecchinelli.

The aim of the Accreditation Working group is to provide assistance and support to the Accreditation and Technical Department in particular during the absence of an ISTA Secretary General. In the reporting period this has included assessing the audit process and considering for approval the auditors' recommendations for (re-)accreditation of audited laboratories. This task is normally undertaken by the ISTA Secretary General. Other support has been in revision of quality documentation for the Secretariat, recruitment of system auditors and suspension of laboratories. The working group has also worked on the audit fee structure and contributed to discussion on the 10% early payment fee reduction. There are two sub-working groups within the Accreditation working group. One of these, chaired by Leena Pietilä, has developed the proposal for a seed sampling template rather than a certificate. This proposal will be voted on later today. The other sub-working group, chaired by Rita Zecchinelli, has worked on the question of EU recognition of ISTA Accreditation.

In conjunction with the work on the seed sampling template, the Articles Working Group chaired by Steve Jones developed an Articles change proposals to both define "Member entities" for sampling as a membership category in the Articles of ISTA and to empower the Executive Committee to authorise and accredit entities for sampling. This change reflects the changes made to the ISTA accreditation standard enabling entities to be accredited for sampling only. The Articles working group has been helped in this work by Michael Kruse. Our thanks go to Michael for his contribution to the development of this proposal and also his contribution to the sub-working group on the seed sampling template.

The crucial role that ISTA Designated Authorities play within in the Association and the need to strengthen the interaction between ISTA and its Designated Authorities has been recognised by the establishment of an Executive Committee working group for the ISTA Designated Authorities. This working group is chaired by the ISTA Immediate Past President Joël Léchappé. This working group arose out of the meeting with the ISTA Designated Authorities during the ISTA Congress in Tallinn. The aim of this working group is to identify ways to strengthen the relationship between ISTA and its Designated Authorities. A second meeting, prepared by the working group,

between the Executive Committee and representatives of the ISTA Designated Authorities present in Denver was held yesterday. At this meeting the ISTA accreditation system and what the ISTA Designated Authorities need from ISTA in the future were discussed.

Annual Meetings such as the one here in Denver would not happen without considerable planning. The policy around and planning for ISTA Events is overseen by the Executive Committee Events Working Group, chaired by Berta Killermann. This working group works closely with the Secretariat, in particular the Event Organiser, Olga Stöckli. The Events Working Group has overseen the organisation of the 2017 Annual Meeting including preparation of the joint programme with AOSA / SCST and modification of the format for the Technical Committee presentations. The working group has also been involved in the finalisation of the locations of the 2018 Annual Meeting in Japan and 2019 Congress in India. The locations will be Sapporo in Japan and the Hyderabad International Convention Centre in India.

The International Relations Working Group, chaired by Joël Léchappé, develops the international relations policy, coordinates ISTA's representation in international fora and works to optimise ISTA's contribution to these fora. Key areas of activity for the reporting period have been collaboration and exchange of information with OECD and ISF. This includes a meeting with ISF in February 2017 at the ISTA Secretariat to discuss issues of common interest. The World Seed Partnership remains a key focus for the collaboration with OECD, ISF and UPOV. For ISTA this has been led by ISTA Honorary Life Member Grethe Tarp. The recent work of the partnership has been the development of a web presence. ISTA has also been present at international (ISF) and regional (AFSTA, APSA, ASTA and ESA) seed trade events as well as scientific (ISSS) and technical (AOSA / SCST, ABRATES and ISHI) meetings. Attendance at trade events enables collaboration and exchange of information; and with science and technical group's harmonisation of seed testing methods and the science that underpins them. Interactions with organisations such as ILAC and EA are important for the ongoing accreditation work of ISTA.

The Management and Finances sub-Working Group, chaired by Steve Jones, has, in the absence of a Secretary General, been primarily involved in supporting the Secretariat in finalising the 2016 budget and preparation of the 2017 and 2018 budgets, all of which will be voted on later today. Other key activities have been helping with staffing changes at the Secretariat and contracting of a marketing consultant.

The promotion of ISTA and its activities continues to be an important area of activity for the Association. The marketing policy and overall strategy is developed by the Marketing Working Group, chaired by Berta Killermann. This strategy is then implemented by the Secretariat with support from the Marketing Working Group as needed. For the later part of the reporting period the marketing has been implemented through an external marketing consultant, overseen by the Marketing Working Group. The marketing approach developed by the working group involves both a horizontal approach with marketing directed to all parts of the world and, in collaboration with the International Relations Working Group, participation in regional meetings of seed trade associations. This participation has the specific purpose of promoting ISTA; both membership of the Association and the value of the ISTA Accreditation system. This has been facilitated through the use of a new ISTA booth and the development of promotion material such as the "Passport to higher seed quality" which outlines the ISTA accreditation system and its advantages. Taking a vertical approach marketing also focuses on targeted geographical areas where ISTA is under-represented and there is potential to growth ISTA's presence, including membership.

An important aspect of marketing is ISTA's publications. The Publications Working Group within the Executive Committee is co-chaired by Valerie Cockerell and Steve Jones. The working group is overseeing the development of the new ISTA website and has also been developing policy around translation of ISTA publications into other languages by ISTA and non-ISTA groups. The working group has also been supporting the publication specialist in the Secretariat in particular around publication of the 2018 ISTA Rules.

As mentioned earlier a new working group within the Executive Committee was established in June 2016, the Technical Committee Working Group, chaired by Valerie Cockerell. The aim of this working group is to identify ways in which the Technical Committees can work more effectively and the means needed to enable them to do so. As a first step to achieving this the Technical Committee Working Group in collaboration with the Secretariat organised a joint workshop in February 2017 to determine what is working well at present and to identify what could be done differently. The workshop involved the Executive Committee, Technical Committee Chairs and Secretariat staff. As a result of this workshop two areas to be focussed on have been identified, the functioning of the Technical Committees and how to speed up the method validation process without losing its integrity. Two sub-working groups within the main working group have been established to focus on these areas. The one on the functioning of the Technical Committees is chaired by Leena Peitilä and the Method Validation sub-working group by Valerie Cockerell.

I hope that this has given you an overview of the activities of the Executive Committee during the reporting period and the support received from the Secretariat in achieving the work. Progress has been made in a number of areas but particular highlights are the recruitment of a new Secretary General and developments of a new proposal for a seed sampling template. The establishment of working groups to focus on strengthening the relationship with the ISTA Designated Authorities and the working of the Technical Committees are supporting the actions in the ISTA Strategy of increasing consultation with the Designated Authorities and supporting the Technical Committees to incentivise membership. The sub-working groups that were formed as a result of the February 2017 workshop will further drive the process to increase support to the Technical Committees. Also over the reporting period ISTA's marketing and promotion has been strengthened and interaction with international and regional seed sector organisations have increased. This all provides a platform to enable the Association to achieve its strategic aims for the triennium.

Thanks you for your attention.

6. Report of the Secretary General

ISTA President, Craig Mc Gill (New Zealand):

“The next item on the agenda is the report of the Secretary General. I invite Andreas Wais, the ISTA Secretary General to present the report. Thank you Andreas.”

Andreas Wais asked Florina Palada to present the report of the Secretary General, as she was deputising Secretary General until End of May 2017.

Secretary General (deputising) October 2016-May 2017, Florina Palada

The report was focused on:

- Update of the ISTA Secretariat staff
- ISTA membership and Accreditation programme
- ISTA Training and Education Programme
- ISTA Publications and Products
- ISTA Meetings

ISTA Secretariat staff: the year 2016 it was a challenging year. Four ISTA staff left the Secretariat: Beni Kaufman, Cannice Gubser, Pierrick Marcoux and Jonathan Taylor. I thank them for their work at the Secretariat.

As it was mentioned by the ISTA President, the Head of the Administration Department, Patricia Muschick passed away in April 2017. Her contribution to ISTA development is to be committed.

Florina Palada, the Head of the Accreditation and Technical Department acted as a Secretary General since 1st October 2016. In the last part of the year recruitment of the

Secretary General was started; Due to the changes mentioned before several other changes of the Secretariat staff responsibilities were necessary.

ISTA membership

In comparison with 2015, in 2016 the number of the Members laboratories increased at 222, the number of the Personal Members decreased at 34 and the Associate members increased at 58. Five ISTA Industry Members are now registered, DuPont Pioneer, Dow AgroScience, Monsanto, Bayer and Hem Zaden.

In 2016, 64 members of the United Nations and 1 Distinct Economy held voting rights in ISTA.

Audit Programme:

At the end of 2016, there were 134 ISTA accredited laboratories located in 61 countries, distinct economies. 50 laboratories were audited; for one laboratory (ZA03) it was their first accreditation audit and for four laboratories the seventh audit (CA04, CA08, GB04, HU01). 25 audits out of 50 were performed by contracted system auditors. Two new contracted system auditors and 3 new technical auditors were approved.

Related to the feedback received from the audited laboratories, at the end of the accreditation/re-accreditation process, 93% of the audited laboratories rated the audit performed as "excellent and very good", 4.7% "satisfactory" and 2.3 % "unsatisfactory". For the "satisfactory" and "unsatisfactory" ratings, an investigation was initiated and corrective actions were established and implemented.

A number of 166 500 ISTA Certificates were sold by the end of the year; compared with 2015, a decrease of 2.6% is observed (1.4 % for Orange ISTA Certificates and 20.6 % for Blue ISTA Certificates).

The planned PT Programme for 2016 coordinated by Branka Opra it was achieved. In addition, one Mini PT on *Brassica napus* was organised in December.

The TCOM Coordination done by Nadine Ettl achieved its goals. The on-going coordination and management of the TCOMs annual cycle including various reports and studies, information updating of the TCOM web sites. The administration and coordination of the Method Validation Programme was also performed and it was provided the necessary support for workshop organization, registration and management; in the past year we reworded and refined the instructions to workshop local organizers. Another activity was the leading the organization of the GMO Proficiency Test and Seed Health rounds communication with laboratories data entry and management.

Several workshops were organised in 2016. There were 4 Workshops on various seed sampling and testing subjects, 1 Quality assurance workshop and 1 Workshop on statistics.

ISTA Publications:

The work of the Publication department was focused on the issuance of the ISTA Rules 2017, the issues no. 151 and no. 152 of the Seed Testing International (STI) and the three issues of Seed Science and Technology. A project towards the redesign and construction of a new ISTA website with a new look and enhanced functionalities is in progress.

In 2016, total sales of publications amounted to 180, excluding copies of the International Rules for Seed Testing and subscriptions for Seed Science and Technology. 160 copies of the ISTA Rules were sold on-line.

ISTA Events:

31st ISTA Congress 2016 took place in Tallinn, Estonia, with 242 participants from 52 countries, distinct economies.

The activities of the Marketing and Communication department were focused to promote the Accreditation programme; with this aim, together with the the Accreditation Department has been created the flipbook "ISTA Accreditation Programme, the passport to higher Seed Quality"

Another important topic it was the renewal of the ISTA TRADEMARK - Swiss registration has been formally renewed for 10 year and it is now valid until 2026.

In the STI a new type of article was added: "Fresh In The Field" with the role to promote the new generation of seed scientists.

At the end of 2016, the ISTA page on LinkedIn already counts +950 Followers

An ISTA GUESTBOOK was produced and presented for the first time during the ISTA annual meeting in Tallinn, June 2016.

New achievements

Two new achievements are to be highlighted, the World Seed Partnership and the ISO Certification of the ISTA Secretariat.

The World Seed Partnership (WSP) is a joint initiative by four international organizations: ISTA, UPOV, OECD and ISF. Its mission is to provide a focal point for information on internationally harmonized seed systems and to communicate their role in supporting sustainable agriculture. The WSP commissioned the development of a website.

In June 2017, the ISTA Secretariat has been audited by the Swiss Certification Body and it is now Certified ISO 9001:2015.

Thank you. Please let me know if you have questions related to the presented Report. Michael Kruse asked the permission to speak. He congratulated the ISTA Secretariat for the great achievements of 2016. Especially, he thanks in his name but also in the name of ISTA Members to Florina Palada for the work done.

ISTA Secretary General, Andreas Wais:

"Thank you Florina for the presentation and the good job of deputising the Secretary General the last 8 months. I would like to continue with a presentation of the draft budget and the appointment of the financial auditors for 2018."

Andreas Wais presented in detail the budget (Document ECOM 17019). The key point may be summarized as follows:

- ✓ ISTA income is stable
- ✓ Reserves are available
- ✓ Project aims to support ISTA membership in areas that support the strategic plan especially members
- ✓ Projects have been started
- ✓ Other projects need to be started
- ✓ Income to cost allocation needs continued study/monitoring

The provisional budget for 2017 was unanimously approved.

Andreas Wais indicated to the membership, that the financial auditors are doing a great job for the Association. The financial audit is always completed well before the February ECOM Meeting, so the ECOM has enough time to discuss the closing of the previous year as well as the provisional budget for the current year. Andreas Wais mentioned, that BDO are a reliable auditing company and they know ISTA very well. This and the fact, that in Switzerland auditing companies are only changed, if the performance is questionable, made Andreas Wais to suggest BDO as financial auditors for 2017 again.

The motion was accepted with one vote against the motion.

7. Fixation of annual subscriptions

ISTA President, Craig Mc Gill (New Zealand):

"I invite Steve Jones, ISTA vice President to the podium, to present the proposal from the Executive Committee for the 2017 subscriptions. Thank you Steve."

The proposal was presented to the meeting and the idea of giving a 10% discount for prompt payment of membership fees was discussed. The discount was proposed due to the current positive financial reserves of ISTA. The membership approved the proposal.

8. Consideration and adoption of the proposed Rules Changes 2017

The Secretary General, Dr. Andreas Wais invited Mr. Ernest Allen to present the proposed Rules changes as ISTA Rules Vice-Chair.

Note: The exact discussion for the first part of the proposed Rules changes for 2017 were not recorded but the outcome of the voting was captured in the document OGM17-06 Approved Proposals for the International Rules for Seed Testing 2018 Edition.

See the approved document OGM17-06 for the full details of the Rules proposals.

Editorial changes

Voting Result: 27 YES votes

New species

B.1.1. – Addition of *Brassica carinata*

Voting Result: 26 YES votes

Chapter 1- ISTA Certificates

C.1.1. – Additional requirements on ISTA certificates

Voting Result: 27 YES votes, 1 NO vote

Chapter 2- Sampling

C.2.1. – Revision of 2.5.4.1.b) Seed lot size

Voting Result: 27 YES votes

C.2.2. – Revision of Table 2A

Voting Result: 27 YES votes

Chapter 3- The purity analysis

C.3.1 – Improved guidance in 3.2.1 for ergot bodies

Voting Result: 28 YES votes

C.3.2 – Changes to reporting for species impossible to identify to species level

Voting Result: 27 YES votes

C.3.3 – Changes to allow % broken seed to be reported on the request of the applicant

Voting Result: 26 YES votes, 1 NO vote

Note: Recording resumed from proposal C3.3 onwards.

Ernest Allen (USA):

“Welcome back, everyone. Just a reminder: when you vote for a proposal, you are also voting for the accompanying validation study also, therefore this includes the pathology proposals and the DNA proposals. So just keep that in mind while we are going through.

We finished C3.3, so we move on to:

C3.4 – Changes to the procedure for preparing XXXX working samples and purity

Voting Result: 28 YES votes

Chapter 4 – Determination of Other Seed by number

C4.1 – Revised Section on Reporting of Seeds

Voting Result: 28 YES votes

Chapter 5 – The Germination Test

C5.1 – Dealing with the secondary roots when the primary root is defective

“There was a change yesterday in the discussion; you can see that on green on the screen here.”

Voting Result: 28 YES Votes

C5.2 – Duration of the Germination Test – Conditions for understanding germination duration

Voting Result: 28 YES Votes

Chapter 7 – Seed Health Testing Methods

“By approving these methods, you are also approving the validation methods that go along with them.

There were some changes which were discussed yesterday, so Steve, if you don't mind to scroll in through slowly. If you have any questions, just raise your hand.

No questions, let's open the voting.”

Voting Result: 27 YES Votes and 1 NO Vote

C7.2 – Another additional new method

Voting Result: 27 YES Votes and 1 NO Vote

C7.3 – Another additional new method for spinach

“Steve added an editorial comment-the only change added to this proposal.”

Voting Result: 27 YES Votes

Chapter 8 – Species and Variety Testing

C8.1 – DNA base method for Variety Verification in XXXX (17:11)

Voting Result: 27 YES Votes

C8.2 – Testing XXXX (18:20)

Voting Result: 29 YES Votes

“The next two proposals were withdrawn – C9.1 and C9.2.”

Chapter 11 – Testing Coated Seed

C11.1 – Revision of the Seed XXXX (19:50) in crusted seed

Voting Result: 28 YES Votes and 1 NO Vote

Chapter 13 – Testing Seeds by weight replicates

C13.1 – Calculation of tolerances

Voting Result: 29 YES Votes

Chapter 15 – Seed Vigour Testing

C15.1 – Revision of the concentration of Sodium Hypochlorite used in washing XXXX boxes and XXXX (22:05) chambers

“There were no changes to this proposal from yesterday’s discussion.”

Voting Result: 28 YES Votes

Chapter 18 – Testing Seed Mixtures

C18.1 – Revision of Chapter 18

“There were just minor editorial changes to this proposal. Because of this proposal, there will be some consequensual changes in Chapter 1. Steve said those will be basically just copied and pasted from the ones up above into Chapter 1.”

Voting Result: 26 YES Votes and 2 NO Votes

“The next vote is to approve the *Protocol for Approval of the Automatic Seed Sampler*. This proposal was also discussed yesterday in the Rules discussion; I do not think there have been any additional changes from yesterday.”

Voting Result: 27 YES Votes

9. Consideration and Adoption of the Reports of the Technical Committees

ISTA President, Craig Mc Gill (New Zealand):

“Before we move to the next agenda item, we have one very important thing to do, and that is to thank Ernest for his management of the Rules process. Thank you very much Ernest.

This agenda point is where we adopt the Technical Committee Reports that have been both published in the Activity Report and have been discussed during the preceding two days of the Annual Meeting.

Before we do that, I would like to draw attention to Günter Müller. This is the last Annual Meeting for Günter. We could not let him finish this meeting without acknowledging the tremendous job he has done as Chair of the Proficiency Test Committee.

Günter is Head of the TLL Laboratory in Germany; he will retire from this position in March 2018. But his activity for the Proficiency Test Committee will not stop now, he will be the test leader for PTAT 1 this year but nonetheless it is the last time that we will see him at the Annual Meeting in his official capacity as Chair of the Proficiency Test Committee.

I am sure that I don't need to tell you that Günter is a very hardworking person but very discrete and also very friendly. He always has great concern for others and I think that those of us who have been involved in the PTs very much appreciate that.

Günter's involvement with ISTA goes back a long time; he began his activities with ISTA in 1992 and participated at his first Congress in 1993 in Copenhagen.

Günter has been Chair of the PTC since 2004. The ISTA Proficiency Test is jointly organized and executed by the Proficiency Test Committee and the Accreditation Department of the ISTA Secretariat. Günter has also been a member of the Germination Committee until 2010. In these 13 years, Günter has worked to successfully prepare the PT plans for each of the trienniums, finding volunteers to be test leaders, finding seeds lots when necessary, analysing the seed quality of the lots before distribution, giving advice to test leaders. He has been a great help to the test leaders. He has also fostered a strong working relationship between the committee and ISTA Secretariat, to ensure that the samples are sent to the participants, and most important, the analysis of the results. He himself has prepared several PTs, organized regularly identification training exercises that were very much appreciated by the participants. In his time as Chair of the Proficiency Test Committee, Günter has enlarged the number of tests and species; he always gave us detailed reports for the PT results. For several years, he has also collected and presented data on the time and cost of the PT themselves, which is very highly appreciated by the Executive Committee.

Thank you very much Günter.”

Günter Müller (Germany):

“Thank you very much. It was a great pleasure for me to work for the ISTA family.”

ISTA President, Craig Mc Gill (New Zealand):

“The other announcement with regard to the Technical Committees is that Cheryl Dollard, due to work changes, is no longer able to continue as Chair of the GMO Committee. We will be resolving the question of a new Chair for the GMO Committee over the coming weeks.

I would also like to thank Cheryl for her work with the GMO Committee.

Now I will ask you all to accept the Activity Report by applause.”

10. Announcement of the Place and Date of the next Annual Meeting

ISTA President, Craig Mc Gill (New Zealand):

“I invite Masatoshi Sato to the podium, to give us information on the 2018 Annual Meeting. Thank you Masatoshi.”

Masatoshi Sato (Japan):

“Ladies and gentlemen’s, I am very grateful to be here and announce that 2018 ISTA Annual Meeting will be held in Japan. In 2011, was planned as well that Annual Meeting to take place in Japan, but was cancelled due to the earthquake and following the nuclear plant issues.

It took us 7 years, and now we would like to invite all of you to Sapporo / Hokkaido. Hokkaido Island has a shape of a diamond; it is the second largest island in Japan and 21st biggest island in the world.

Welcome to Sapporo.”

11. Announcement of the Place and Date of the next ISTA Congress

ISTA President, Craig Mc Gill (New Zealand):

“Thank you very much for the presentation Masatoshi. We all look forward to seeing Sapporo next year.

I would now like to invite Keshavulu Kunusoth, who will give us information regarding 2019 ISTA Congress, which will take place in Hyderabad, India.”

Keshavulu Kunusoth (India):

“Good morning, everyone. We are happy to announce that 32nd ISTA Congress will be held in 26 June-3 July in Hyderabad, India. On behalf of the Government of India - indeed, we are honoured and delighted that ISTA has approved the request of the Government of India to hold the 2019 ISTA Congress in Hyderabad. ISTA Congress will be organized in collaboration with the Government of India and Government of Telangana State.

Hyderabad is the 5th largest city in the country, and it has a rich diversity of cultures, population from the south and north of India.

The Venue for 2019 ISTA Congress is Novotel Hyderabad Convention Centre.

Thank you and I welcome you all to the 32nd 2019 ISTA Congress to be held in Hyderabad.”

ISTA President, Craig Mc Gill (New Zealand):

“Thank you, Keshavulu, for the presentation. I think that from the presentations we can see that both Japan and India have strong seed industries and this will make the two venues of great interest to us all. They will be also great locations for having Annual Meeting and Congress. We are looking forward to 2018 and 2019.

Thanks once again to Masatoshi and Keshavulu for the presentations, and for all the work they are doing for organizing the Annual Meeting and Congress in their countries.”

12. Any other Business raised by a Member, of which notice in writing has been received by the Secretary General two months prior to the date of the Meeting

ISTA President, Craig Mc Gill (New Zealand):

“No business has been raised by a member, therefore there is no item to discuss under this Agenda Point.”

13. Any other Business raised by consent of the Executive Committee

ISTA President, Craig Mc Gill (New Zealand):

“There is one item that will be discussed, and that is *ISTA Seed Sampling Template*.

I invite Leena to present the proposal on the Seed Sampling Template.

Thank you, Leena.”

Leena Pietilä (Finland):

“Good afternoon. *ISTA Seed Sampling Template* is a continued topic from Tallinn-2016.

The name is changed from Seed Sampling Certificate to Seed Sampling Template. One reason for this is that the word *template* gives more flexibility. If you think of ISTA Orange/Blue Certificates, these certificates go out to the customers and users of seed lots; there are very strict formal rules how they can be used. The Seed Sampling Templates – they always follow the seed sample, and the ones which use these templates are the ISTA Seed Sampling and Seed Testing laboratories. Templates are in more control than Certificates; this is the reason we changed the name.

Our Working Group members are from the ECOM: Valerie Cockerell, Keshavulu Kunusoth, Rita Zecchinelli, and our external contributors are Michael Kruse and Ray Shillito.

Here are listed the aims of the *ISTA Seed Sampling Template*:

- ❖ Meant for situations where the seed sampling entity or the laboratory that carries out the seed sampling is not the laboratory that carries out seed testing; in fact, this is not a new way of working in such sense, even at the moment there are laboratories that take samples and send them to be tested to another laboratories, and these other laboratories issue ISTA Orange Certificates for seed samples coming from other laboratories. This is more aimed to give a standardized way for an ISTA accredited entity that gets those samples, to be sure that submitted sample was taken according to the ISTA Rules and by the seed sampler which is authorized to draw samples for an ISTA Orange Certificate.
- ❖ The main objective is to issue ISTA Orange Certificates, but of course is someone likes these Seed Sampling Templates, to be used for other purposes also.

We propose that these templates can be downloaded from ISTA website, together with the instructions; the proposal is that this should be made free of charge.

The templates can be downloaded by the customer - who is requesting sampling, by the sampling entity, by the laboratory which carries out seed sampling, or by the seed sampler; the seed sampler can submit these templates either electronically or as a paper document.

We propose as well that these templates can be signed by ISTA seed sampler or by sampling entity; the email address that is confirmed by the employer or sampling entity can be accepted as signature, so it is not necessary to be hand signature.

A corresponding sampling document or filling format can be used as long as it includes minimum the same information that is proposed to be included in the template.

The process must provide confidence for the sampling entity or sampling laboratory, that sampling is carried out in a correct way, but also to provide confidence for the seed laboratory.

There are two different options available:

1. Seed Sampling Template is signed by the sampling entity or sampling laboratory; the good side is that the process may be in better control of the sampling entity and it may give more confidence to the testing laboratory that everything is done correctly according to the ISTA Accreditation Standards, especially in those cases where this process is very new. It might cause extra work to the sampling entity because they must confirm that the seed sample was authorized by them.
2. Seed Sampling Template is signed by the seed sampler; it might be easier, to implement faster, more efficient, especially if this is used in big quantities and regularly.

This was the proposal for *ISTA Seed Sampling Template*; if the proposal is accepted, we propose also further actions, like an evaluation period of 3 years; ISTA laboratories will be asked first to record the use and any non-conformities that they found while *ISTA Seed Sampling Template* is used; they are asked to share their records and their experience.

The final decision about modifications or stopping of this system will be based on the feedback.

ISTA Seed Sampling Template will not be included in the ISTA Rules, at least at the moment.”

ISTA President, Craig Mc Gill (New Zealand):

“Thank you Leena, for the presentation.”

The *ISTA Seed Sampling Template* was approved, and the president of ISTA thanked everybody for their votes.

14. President’s closing address

ISTA President, Craig Mc Gill (New Zealand):

We are now coming to the end of the 2017 Annual Meeting in Colorado Denver. The first joint Annual Meeting with the Association of Official Seed Analysts and Society of Commercial Seed Technologists.

During the Annual Meeting two discussion fora were held. One on Trait testing for Genetically Modified Organisms which covered a range of methods for testing for traits, including method displays. The second on Building Relations and Collaborations between ISTA, AOSA and SCST gave an insight into our respective

organisations and also raised questions around how the different organisation achieve the goal common to each of uniformity in seed testing.

As a result the format of the meeting has been different to that of previous Congresses and Annual Meetings. This has been most noticeable in the Technical Committee presentations where posters have been used to deliver the Committee Reports rather than the traditional oral presentations. The side meetings in some cases have been jointly with AOSA and SCST. The posters have allowed the Technical Committees to meet during the day rather than in the evening. The Executive Committee Events Working Group would appreciate your feedback on the Technical Committee format used for this meeting and other aspects of the meeting to help planning future meetings. The Technical Committees remain the heart of ISTA.

We have seen this week with the workshops held before the beginning of the Annual Meeting and the Rules proposals just voted on, these represent a continued evolution of the Rules. The introduction of a new species *Brassica carinata* into the Rules, improved guidance in the purity analysis for ergot bodies, addition of new methods for Seed Health Testing and a DNA-based methods for variety verification in maize, plus a complete revision of Chapter 18 Testing Mixtures amongst other evolutions.

The importance of the Technical Committees within the Association is reflected in the establishment of an ECOM Working Group for the Technical Committees and two sub-working groups within the Technical Committee Working Group, one on Method Validation and how the Method Validation process can be sped up and the other on how the functioning of the Technical Committees can be made more effective than it is now and the resources needed to achieve this. Prior to the start of the Annual Meeting the Executive Committee meet and approved changes to the way in which the Technical Committee funding support operates. This is designed to make it easier for the Technical Committees to utilise the funds available to achieve their work programmes.

At a meeting between the Executive Committee and the Technical Committee Chairs, also prior to the start of the Annual Meeting, the new tool developed by the Statistical Committee to help Technical Committees analyse their validation data was demonstrated. This will be a great help for Technical Committees wanting to analyse validation data and should speed up the validation process.

We should not forget that the time given by the Technical Committee members is given freely to the Association. I thank the Technical Committee members and their respective organisations for all the time and support given. Without that time and support we would not achieve anywhere near as much as we do – the Rules development, development and production of handbooks, workshops and symposia / seminars, as well as advice to members and non-members.

The work of the Association in the areas of Rules development, accreditation publication, marketing, organisation of workshops and events such as the Annual meeting we are now concluding as well as the daily management of the Association would also not occur without the ISTA Secretariat. We have had the great pleasure this week of welcoming our new Secretary General, Dr Andreas Wais, to the Association. On behalf of the membership and the Executive Committee I thank Andreas and his team within the secretariat for all the work they do on behalf of the Association. In acknowledging the work of the Secretariat I must make special mention of Florina Palada who acted as Secretary General from 1 October to 31 May while at the same time continuing her role as Head of the Accreditation and Technical Department. The continued professional and effective operation of the Secretariat during those months is largely due to the hard work and professional approach taken by Florina. On behalf of the Association thank you Florina.

At the 2016 Ordinary General Meeting in Tallinn Estonia the membership asked the Executive Committee to reconsider the proposed experiment on the International Seed Sampling Certificate. Today a new proposal has been brought to the membership – a seed sampling template which has been today approved by the membership is, along with the addition of the sampling entity membership category, an expansion of the services offered to the seed sector by the Association. It also represents one of the strengths of the Association in that we may not always get things correct the first time but with the depth of scientific and technical knowledge in the Association we can find solutions that work.

It is traditional in the Presidents closing speech to thank all those involved in the organisation of the meeting. However this was done at the Annual Meeting Dinner because this was the last time we were all together as a group. Nonetheless I will reiterate the thanks I gave on behalf of the Association to the United States Department of Agriculture for inviting ISTA to hold its 2017 Annual Meeting in the United States. Also congratulations to Jesse Petersen, Kelly Polzin and Kelly Forgarty and their teams and the ISTA Secretariat, in particular Olga Stöckli, on organising a meeting that required bringing together the different needs of ISTA and AOSA / SCST into one meeting programme while separated by a distance of over 8000 km. Thanks also to the staff of the Renaissance Hotel, the meeting venue, for all there help during the meeting including with the audio visual facilities.

I thank you the meeting participants, and in particular the ISTA Designated Voting Members, for your attendance and contribution. Without that contribution the Association would not be able to make progress.

15. Adjournment

ISTA President, Craig Mc Gill (New Zealand):

“Finally, I wish you all a safe journey home and look forward to seeing you in Sapporo/Japan in 2018.

The 2017 ISTA Annual Meeting is adjourned.” After the ISTA President Craig McGill closed the 2019 ISTA Meeting Steve Jones asked the membership to thank Craig for the successful chairing of his first ISTA OGM . The membership did by applause.